

**BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

1971



BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1971

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH1971To the Chairman and Members of the Belford Rural District Council

Vital Statistics The population of the District in 1971, as reported by the General Register Office, was 4,590 persons and this figure is marginally lower than that given in the Preliminary Report of the Census 1971. On previous occasions comment has been made about the low birth rate in the District and the fact that this does not provide natural replacement of the deaths. The table on page 6 records the birth rates for the past fifty years and it will be seen that for the past quarter of a century the rate in the District has been below the present level of 16 births per thousand population in England and Wales.

There were 49 births during the year, with a slight excess of males to female births, and this compares with 56 births during 1970. The crude birth rate was 10.7 per thousand population and the adjusted rate was 12.9 per thousand which is still well below the national rate.

There were 87 deaths during the year - 42 male and 45 female. The crude death rate was 19.0 per thousand population and the adjusted rate was 15.6 per thousand. Both these rates are well in excess of the one for England and Wales which was 11.6 per thousand. Three quarters of the deaths occurred in persons aged 65 years and over and 55% occurred in persons aged 75 years and over. Causes of death were in the expected categories being mainly those associated with the pathology of old age. There was one infant death from pneumonia and two in young adult males from motor vehicle accidents.

Infectious Diseases The number of notified infectious diseases was small. There were nine cases of measles all except one occurring in young children of school age or just below. This age-group is the one for which vaccination is available.

A case of paratyphoid fever was notified but after hospitalisation and investigation it seemed more probable that this was an exacerbation of a pre-existing carrier state. The phage-type of the organism was one which had not been isolated in the north-east for twenty years. There were no associated cases nor had there been other cases in previous years which could have been attributed to this source.

A case of brucellosis occurred in a farm-worker shortly after he had left the District but the source seemed attributable to this area. The farm where he had worked did not have a dairy herd and his own source of milk supply could not be implicated.

The arrival was notified of a small number of persons who had been on holiday in a cholera endemic area in Spain. These were put under surveillance until the end of the possible incubation period.

Mussel beds in the area continued to be examined for toxicity over the summer months by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Toxicity was at a low level for a few weeks and then test results became negative. Warning notices were displayed over the appropriate period.

For the second year running no cases of tuberculosis were notified and only one case of pulmonary tuberculosis has been notified in the past five years. There are few cases remaining on the tuberculosis register and so it would seem that any reservoir of infection in the District has now been eliminated.

Immunisation The tables on page 8 show that acceptance of various forms of immunisation for infants remains at a high level. Very few children are not routinely immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and oral poliomyelitis - measles vaccination is gaining in acceptability and in districts where this is high there is found to be a low incidence of the illness. Nearly all cases of measles are found not to have been immunised.

There was an increased demand for Rubella vaccination for adolescent girls compared with that in the first year in 1970. Acceptance was at a

higher rate than for B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis.

During 1971 the Department of Health recommended that smallpox vaccination should no longer be made a routine vaccination of infancy. This procedure had been compulsory between 1853 and 1948 and thereafter recommended only. Worldwide smallpox eradication schemes have reduced the number of endemic countries to less than ten. The risk of importation is now low, the disease can be well controlled by isolation, and there is a mortality risk from vaccination itself.

Ian G.P. Fraser

Medical Officer of Health



GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 39,797 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 2,316 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 33.

The estimated mid-year population was 4,590 and this figure was taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	24	23	47
Illegitimate	2	-	2
	<u>26</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>49</u>
Totals			
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population			10.7
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor (1,21)			12.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			4
<u>Stillbirths</u>			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals			
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births			-
Total live and still births			49
<u>Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)</u>			
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals			
	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			20
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			21
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals			
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births			-



<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births			-
<u>Maternal Mortality Rate (including abortion)</u>			
Number of deaths			-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			-
<u>Deaths</u>	42	45	87
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			19.0
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor (0.82)			15.6

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	3	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	2	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	-	5	5
Diabetes Mellitus	-	2	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	13	11	24
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	3	5
Cerebrovascular Disease	12	9	21
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	2	4
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	5	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	-	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All Other Accidents	-	1	1
Totals	<u>42</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>87</u>

POPULATION, BIRTH RATE AND INFANT MORTALITY1921 - 1971

Year	Population	Crude Birth Rate	Number of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate
1921	4,940	16.2	6	75.0
1931	4,433	14.4	5	78.0
1932	4,521	13.5	5	82.0
1933	4,438	12.6	2	35.7
1934	4,493	18.0	2	24.7
1935	4,555	13.8	4	63.5
1936	4,647	16.5	5	64.9
1937	4,675	16.7	4	51.0
1938	4,764	17.4	6	72.3
1939	5,127	11.4	4	71.0
1940	5,265	12.7	3	44.7
1941	5,379	14.7	6	76.0
1942	5,279	19.3	4	39.2
1943	Report missing	-	-	-
1944	4,972	-	-	-
1945	4,703	16.4	-	-
1946	4,884	20.6	6	59.4
1947	4,906	21.8	4	37.3
1948	4,904	15.2	1	13.3
1949	4,940	15.4	3	39.5
1950	5,099	16.2	3	36.0
1951	5,155	14.7	1	13.0
1952	5,022	15.7	1	12.6
1953	5,065	12.5	1	15.6
1954	5,030	14.0	-	-
1955	5,030	13.5	3	44.0
1956	5,030	11.1	2	35.0
1957	5,030	13.1	3	45.0
1958	5,010	13.6	1	14.7
1959	5,040	16.5	2	24.1
1960	5,050	15.0	-	-
1961	4,800	15.0	1	13.9
1962	4,790	12.1	2	34.5
1963	4,780	14.2	1	14.7
1964	4,780	11.3	1	18.5
1965	4,820	13.1	-	-
1966	4,820	11.2	1	18.5
1967	4,820	15.0	2	33.0
1968	5,100	11.4	1	17.2
1969	5,120	11.3	1	17.0
1970	5,240	10.7	1	18.0
1971	4,590	10.7	1	20.0

NOTIFICATIONS OF  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles	9
Whooping Cough	1
Paratyphoid	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

IMMUNISATIONBerwick M.B., Belford R.D., Glendale R.D., Norham & Islandshires R.D.

(Population 24,910)

Disease	Primary Immunisations			Reinforcing Doses		
	Under 4	4-15	Total	Under 4	4-15	Total
Diphtheria	342	6	348	6	387	393
Whooping Cough	335	5	340	4	52	56
Tetanus	342	7	349	6	387	393
Polio	319	5	324	4	271	275
Measles	209	41	250	-	-	-
Rubella	-	213	213	-	-	-

There were 330 live births in the area during 1971 and the number of primary immunisations of infants under 4 years of age have been expressed as percentages of this figure.

Diphtheria	-	103%
Whooping Cough	-	101%
Tetanus	-	103%
Polio	-	97%
Measles	-	66%

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

Berwick Borough	178
Belford R.D.	-
Glendale R.D.	-
Norham & Islandshires R.D.	-
Total	<u>178</u>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR1971NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITSPUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Drainage	79
W.C.'s	1
Septic Tanks	16
Dangerous and Dilapidated Buildings	5
Trade Refuse	72
Dustbins	1
Offensive accumulations	5
Public Conveniences	163
Water supply and water samples	70
Camping Sites	172

HOUSING ACTS

Repairs and survey	497
Demolition and Closing Sec. 16	6
Improvement Grants	136

FOOD AND DRUGS

Butchers' shops - meat inspections	41
Food Premises - inspections	192
- condemned food	14
Ice-cream retailers	13
Ice-cream manufacturers	15
Fish Merchants	14
Dairies, Milk Dealers etc.	11

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Factories with mechanical power	16
Factories without mechanical power	9

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

Inspection of dwellinghouses	45
Business premises	160
Local Authority premises	19

MISCELLANEOUS

Refuse Tips	26
Sewage Works	164
Sea Outfalls	52

WATER SUPPLIES

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company continues to maintain all the public supplies to the area satisfactorily so far as quality and quantity are concerned.

The extension of the trunk main from Warenford to Belford was completed during the year. The result is an improvement in both the quality and quantity of water supplied to the village.

The further extension of this main to the northern part of the district has been proposed and I am hopeful that this work will be completed during next year.

Tabulated below is a statement of samples taken and results obtained of the public water supplies:-

Source	Total samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No. of unsatisfactory samples with faecal coli
Belford Village	5	5	-	-
Hospital Springs	12	12	-	-
Paddy's	12	12	-	-
Bamburgh	25	23	2	2
Coquet Water Board	20	20	-	-
Total	74	72	2	2

Number of samples of private water supplies - 6

" " " " swimming pool water - 4



## SEWERAGE

The Bamburgh treatment works were completed at the end of the year. Their completion will undoubtedly result in a more hygienic disposal of sewage. No longer will the duneland be polluted by the effluent from the sewage farm. The works were difficult to complete due to difficult ground conditions and the Contractor overcame the difficulties only with considerable effort.

Seahouses scheme has progressed little, float tests have been taken and further progress may be possible next year.

The works at Beadnell and Belford have continued to operate satisfactorily throughout the year.

The Council gave consideration to the proposal to sewer Station Road and the Consultants now have this matter in hand.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

This service has again operated satisfactorily although under heavy pressure during the summer and this despite an extension of the bin-liner system and the use of the new Revopak refuse vehicle. This new vehicle has been of great benefit and has operated almost trouble-free since purchase. It has proved its worth by the large loads it is capable of carrying and the saving in vehicle running. Again the overtime worked has varied little from last year despite the growth in the district and the ever increasing volume of refuse.

Litter continues to be the greatest problem facing the Council in this service. The apparent inability of the majority of the public to use litter bins is a source of concern to me. Whether the bins are wrongly sited or the public suffer from some handicap which prevents their



using the bins is a matter for conjecture but there is a considerable amount of litter deposited on streets, dunes and car parks and in lay-bys. Although the penalties for dropping litter have been increased, it has still not been possible for a prosecution to be brought, although many observations for contraventions of the Act have been made.

The operation of the Civic Amenities Act in so far as it deals with abandoned cars and rubbish has not caused any problems. Most worn out vehicles are removed to tips by the owners in consultation with the Council and only 5 vehicles were involved in legal action.

During the year the use of the Chatton Moor Tip was discontinued and the land returned to the owner. All refuse is now tipped at Embleton and has resulted in some saving to the Council by the exclusion of tip maintenance costs.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences have suffered their usual amount of mis-use. It would seem that a section of the community are either so ignorant or so naturally filthy that they are unable to use the conveniences without leaving behind them conditions which can only be described as deplorable. It would be of assistance if ordinary members of the public would come forward and give evidence as to this mis-use in order that successful prosecutions could be brought by the Council.

#### CAMPING AND CARAVANS

During the year all sites were regularly inspected and, by and large, have been well maintained. Some sites have still not complied with all site licence conditions particularly in regard to sanitary accommodation and this is a matter for regret. However it may be that in the ensuing

year the Council may have to take firmer action. One caravan site has not been licensed as the planning permission has lapsed and the County Planning Officer is to take the necessary enforcement action.

The number of licensed caravan sites remains at 16 but the total number of pitches has now reached a total of 1,300.

The increasing numbers of touring caravans are causing considerable problems. There are few pitches allocated for this use and the demand far exceeds the supply. The County Planning Department have so far been unable to suggest a suitable site for the Council to develop and it is to be hoped that some action can be expected soon. The Northumberland and Durham Tourist Board are making great efforts to expand the tourist trade but there would seem to be little point in inviting more visitors to this area without providing the necessary facilities.

I am happy to report that the County Planning Committee have seen the wisdom of granting the Council a permanent planning permission in respect of the camping site at Beadnell. I would take this opportunity of thanking those who have supported the Council's efforts to secure permanent planning permission as the alternative would have resulted in a grave hazard to public health. Plans of the improvements proposed for the site have now been approved and it is hoped to complete all of the works before the Spring Bank Holiday.

The works include the provision of a toilet block and warden's office, improvements to the roads and other miscellaneous works, estimated at £14,000. The site will then be provided with sufficient toilets, washbasins, sinks and showers with hot water to satisfy camping requirements and produce a good site.

The private camping site has been well managed and provided a good service. There have been no complaints of unhygienic conditions and I am satisfied that there is now a good service in this district for campers.

FOOD INSPECTION AND FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1970

During the year the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered and condemned for the reasons shown.

Commodity	Reason for Condemnation	Weight
Canned Meat	Tainted	43 lbs.
Other Canned Food	Damaged, holed and blown	271 lbs.
Frozen foods	Defrosted	296 lbs.
Cooked meats	Contamination	22 lbs.
Carcase Meat	Tainted	96 lbs.

The sampling of milk for Brucella Abortus continued and a total of 16 samples were obtained during the year for this purpose, none of which were found to be positive.

Ice cream manufactured within the district has been sent for bacteriological examination and the results of examination are as follows:-

Grade	1	2	3	4
	5	6	3	5

N.B. Grade 1 is the highest

It is a matter for regret that such a small number of samples have been taken and the analysis of the results obtained cannot be definitive.

Food premises were all subject to regular inspections during the year and it was not found necessary to take any formal action, where minor infringements were found they were remedied informally. The standard of hygiene in the district is, by and large, very good. Advice to food handlers continues to be given and I am happy to report, acted upon.

Shown below are the types of premises.

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number of Premises</u>
Butchers	5
General Dealers	18
Bakers	2
Catering Establishments including hotels and public houses	33
Greengrocers	4
Fish Shops	3
	<hr/>
Total	65
	<hr/>

#### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

All registered premises were inspected during the year and most complied with the requirements of the Act. The infringements found, 7 in number, were dealt with informally and no further action was necessary.

On the next page is reproduced a statement as to the number of premises to which the Act applies and the number of visits etc., made.

Class of Premises	No. Registered during year	Total Registered at year end	No. of Premises receiving general inspection during year
Offices	-	4	4
Retail Shops	-	27	27
Wholesale Shops	-	1	1
Catering Establishments	-	21	21
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-

Total number of visits	-	149
Total of Persons employed in premises to which the Act applies	-	340 (seasonal)
Total of Males	-	92
Total of Females	-	248
Number of premises for which exemption was in force during the year	-	1

There were no prosecutions for offences under the Act

No accidents were reported during the year

Poultry Inspection - There are no processing establishments in this district



WATER SUPPLIES

Parishes		Adderstone with Lucker	Bamburgh	Beadnell	Belford	Easington	Ellingham	Middleton	North Sunderland	Totals
Pop. 1961		303	558	586	1070	199	430	233	1625	5004
No. Inhabited houses (According to Census)		129 (103)	265 (216)	397 (242)	421 (360)	79 (71)	149 (122)	87 (83)	789 (607)	2316 (1804)
public supply	No. houses with piped supply in houses	95	230	373	382	-	64 & 1 Brdg School	-	779	1924
	No. houses with stand-pipe supply	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	9
private supplies	No. houses with piped supply in houses	30	33	24	39	78	83	87	8	384
	No. houses with stand-pipes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. houses with W.C.		119	261	397	421	72	144	86	785	2285
No. houses with bath		120	262	393	406	72	133	86	761	2233

HOUSINGGENERAL

Total number of inhabited houses in District	2,316
New houses Local Authority	2
New houses other Housing Authority	-
New houses Private Persons	31
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	395

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION

1.	Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	-
2.	Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	-
3.	Houses closed not demolished (Section 16)	-
4.	Houses permanently discontinued as dwellings	1

REPAIRS - Houses made Fit

(a)	By informal action	28
(b)	By owners as a result of statutory notice	-
(c)	By Local Authority in default of owners	-
(d)	Demolition Order revoked after reconstruction	3

IMPROVEMENT GRANTSHOUSING ACT 1949 - HOUSE PURCHASE & HOUSING ACT, 1959 AND HOUSING ACT, 1971

1.	<u>Discretionary Grants</u>		
(a)	Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	31	
(b)	Applications rejected	-	
(c)	Applications approved	31	
(d)	Approximate average grant approved per house	£940	
(e)	Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme	310	
2.	<u>Standard Grants</u>	<u>During year</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
(1)	Number of separate houses for which grants were paid during year	2	48
(2)	Number of houses so provided with		
(a)	Bath or shower	2	39
(b)	Wash hand basin	2	44
(c)	Hot water supply	2	39
(d)	Water Closet	-	38
(e)	Sink	-	-
(3)	Houses not included in above approved for grant under the Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Act 1946-54	-	-

POSITION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

A survey of the district has commenced and 1,110 houses have been considered. From the results so far it would seem that there are few unfit houses in the area but some sub-standard. On the whole there would seem to be a high standard of housing in the district. The present policy of house improvement grants has been a useful incentive in achieving higher standards in housing.



Below is tabulated the number and type of properties treated during the year.

SEWERS

The sewers were tested for rat infestation and no 'takes' were recorded.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1961Part 1 of the Act

## 1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	4	16		
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	9		
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	1		
Totals	28	26		

## 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector      By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)				
Overcrowding (S.2)				
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)				
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)				
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient				
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1		1
(c) Not separate for sexes				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)				



